
Highway Traffic Noise Analysis and Abatement Guidelines



The purpose of this project is to:

- (1) Develop a highway noise policy for Type II projects;
- (2) Update and standardize highway noise policy for Type I projects;
- (3) Organize instructional workshops for both Type I and Type II projects noise policies;
- (4) Organize instructional workshops for FHWA's Traffic Noise Model;
- (5) Collect comments from affected professionals and assist in publicizing the finalized policies; and,
- (6) Produce manual and CDs for both Type I and Type II projects noise policies titled: HIGHWAYS

DIVISION TRAFFIC NOISE ANALYSIS AND ABATEMENT GUIDELINE.

HDOT's 1997 noise policy has to be reviewed and updated in order to allow for relief from traffic noise only when the prevailing noise conditions are substantially severe. The main goal of the present policy is to implement Title 23 Part 772 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (23 CFR 772) and the noise related requirements of the National Environmental Policy of 1969. It requires that a noise analysis is performed when potentially impacted receivers are present for Type I projects. Type I projects are Federal or Federal-Aid projects for the construction of a highway (1) on a new location, or (2) the physical alteration of an existing highway which significantly changes either the horizontal or vertical alignment, or (3) increases the number of through-traffic lanes. Type II projects are proposed Federal or Federal-Aid highway projects to construct traffic noise abatement measures on existing highways and are not required by Federal law or regulations. Specific policies and procedures are needed for consistency in identifying traffic noise impacts and for the implementation of reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures for these requests.

The present policy establishes the reasonable cost for providing noise mitigation to \$35,000 or less per residence. Better procedures to determine *reasonable* and *feasible*, better procedures to determine *locations to obtain noise measurements*, definitions for *significant changes* in either horizontal or vertical alignment and for *lane addition* are needed.